

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 L-03 SCA-01 SCS-03 H-03 AGR-20

EB-11 RSR-01 RSC-01 /087 W

----- 093993

R 151610Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9858

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RABAT 3777

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR MO

SUBJECT: MOROCCANIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS

REF: TANGIER 0454 AND STATE 159809

1. DCM CALLED ON GHALI BENHIMA, DIRECTOR EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY AFTERNOON AUGUST 14 AND PRESENTED HIM WITH THREE DIPLOMATIC NOTES ASKING FOR CLARIFICATION GOM INTENTIONS TOWARDS THREE CATEGORIES OF AMERICAN-OWNED LAND WHICH APPARENTLY SUBJECT TO SEIZURE UNDER MOROCCANIZATION DECREES. THREE CATEGORIES ARE:

(1) FOUR PARCELS AT VOA RELAY STATION (TANGIER'S 0454);

(2) RCA PROPERTY (DEPT'S 159809); AND (3) VARIOUS SMALL

PROPERTIES BELONGING AMERICAN MISSIONARY GROUPS. TEXTS

OF NOTES BEING POUCHED TO AF/N FOR MONTVILLE.

2. BENHIMA SAID HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY SEND NOTES ON THESE CASES TO SPECIAL INTERIOR-AGRICULTURE COMMISSION WHICH WAS STUDYING ANOMALIES CROPPING UP UNDER MOROCCANIZATION PROCEDURES ON CASE BY CASE BASIS. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO FINAL DECISIONS TAKEN WITH REGARD TO SUCH PROPERTIES.

DCM POINTED OUT THAT BOTH MISSIONARIES AND RCA HAD RECEIVED WHAT AMOUNTED TO THIRTY-DAY EVICTION NOTICES. BENHIMA

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NOTED THAT LANDS IN QUESTION DID NOT SEEM TO BE OF

"VOCATION AGRICOLE" AS PROVIDED FOR IN DECREES AND DID NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE PROBLEM.

3. MINISTER OF INTERIOR ECHIGUER HAD TOLD ME AT LUNCH ON 14TH THAT THERE WAS COMMISSION OF SORT DESCRIBED BY BENHIMA AND SAID THAT WE SHOULD HAVE CASES IN QUESTION PUT BEFORE IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SAID COMMISSION PREPARED BY VERY "FLEXIBLE." DCM ASKED BENHIMA WHETHER FOREIGN MINISTRY WISHED TAKE THIS RESPONSIBILITY OR WHETHER WE SHOULD GO DIRECTLY TO COMMISSION. BENHIMA SAID HE WOULD HANDLE IT AND ASSURED DCM THAT MATTER WOULD BE WITH COMMISSION BY FOLLOWING DAY. AT MY SUBSEQUENT REQUEST, BENHIMA ALSO AGREED TO SEND COPIES OF HIS NOTES ON THE CASES TO GOVERNORS OF TANGIER AND MEKNES, IN WHOSE PROVINCES THE LANDS ARE LOCATED. BENHIMA TOLD ME HE BELIEVED EMBASSY ENTIRELY CORRECT IN MAINTAINING SUBJECT PROPERTIES NOT APPROPRIATED FOR SEIZURE AS AGRICULTURAL LANDS; SAID A GOOD DEAL OF CONFUSION ATTENDING THIS OPERATION AND "MISTAKES" WOULD BE CORRECTED. HE ASSURED ME THERE WOULD BE NO HASTY ACTION TO TAKE OVER PROPERTIES IN QUESTION.
ROCKWELL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973RABAT03777
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730836/aaaabalf.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TANGIER 0454 AND STATE 159809
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <17-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOROCCANIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005